Adi Vaani

Bringing India's Tribal Languages into the Digital Age

PIB Analysis

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is promoting **Adi Vaani**, an AI-powered platform for translating and preserving tribal languages.

- Supports text translation in **9 tribal languages** (as on October 15, 2026).
- Recorded over **35,000 Android downloads** and around 6,500 monthly users.
- A Working Group on Tribal Languages proposed developing it as the **National Tribal Language Repository**.

Adi Vaani – Connecting Language with Technology

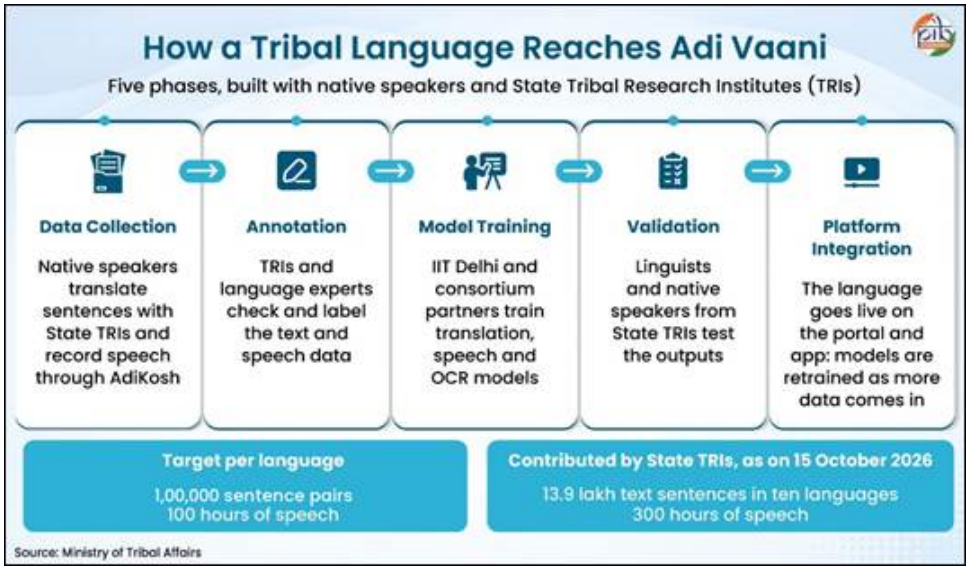
- **Launched –** September 1, 2025, by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- **Developed by –** Consortium led by IIT Delhi, with BITS Pilani, IIIT Hyderabad, IIIT Nava Raipur and State Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs).
- **Objective –** Bridge the digital divide through AI-based translation and promote tribal languages, cultural identity and digital inclusion.

Expanding Language Coverage and Digital Reach

- Initially covered Santali, Bhili, Mundari and Gondi; expanded to 13 languages across the platform.
- Offers text and speech translation, OCR, video subtitling, over **300 language primers** and 24 dictionaries.

Community-based approach –

- Native speakers contribute words, sentences and recordings through TRIs and AdiKosh.
- As of October 15, 2026, TRIs contributed **13.9 lakh text sentences across ten languages and 300 hours of speech data**.
- AdiKosh serves as the platform's verified linguistic word bank.



Key Features

- **Text-to-text –** Translation between tribal languages, Hindi and English.
- **Speech-to-text and speech-to-speech –** Converts and translates spoken languages.
- **OCR –** Extracts text from images and scanned documents.
- **Video Subtitling –** Translates video content.
- **Digital Resources –** Dictionaries and language primers.

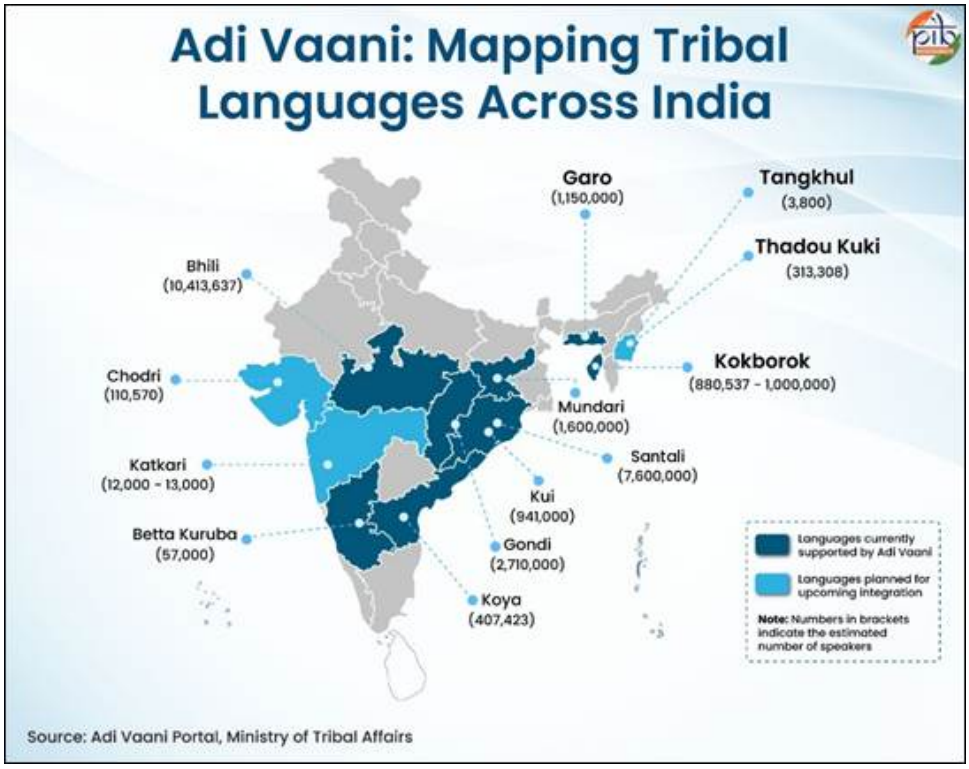
Tribal Languages – Preserving Knowledge and Identity

- Census 2011 recorded **10.45 crore Scheduled Tribe people**, constituting 8.6% of India's population.
- Tribal languages preserve folklore, traditional medicine, biodiversity knowledge and cultural identity.
- Digital documentation supports intergenerational knowledge transfer.



Adi Vaani's Impact Beyond Translation

- **Education –** Supports NEP 2020's mother-tongue education approach through 300+ primers, benefiting potential integration across 525+ Eklavya Model Residential Schools.
- **Healthcare –** Provides translated Sickle Cell Disease awareness resources, supporting the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission.
- **Economic Empowerment –** Improves access to market information and complements 4,712 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras covering 12.94 lakh beneficiaries.
- **Public Services –** Complements the Ministry's AI conversational assistant **Jago**, launched on August 24, 2026.
- **Cultural Preservation –** Documents tribal stories, folk songs, oral traditions and indigenous knowledge through community participation.



Building a National Tribal Language Repository

The Working Group on Tribal Languages, first meeting on October 15, 2026, proposed –

- Preparing a national baseline of tribal languages.
- Developing digital archives and multilingual educational resources.
- Establishing district-level community resource groups.
- Strengthening cooperation among TRIs and academic institutions.
- Implementing a two-year action plan with quarterly reviews.

Conclusion

Adi Vaani integrates artificial intelligence with community knowledge to preserve tribal languages and promote digital inclusion.

Its success depends on community participation, linguistic accuracy and integration into everyday education, healthcare and governance.

Reference

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